UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----x 23-CR-99(LJV-JJM)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

vs.

HOWARD HINKLE, JR., also known as Hard How, Defendant.

Buffalo, New York September 9, 2024

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ORAL ARGUMENT

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE MAGISTRATE JUDGE JEREMIAH J. MCCARTHY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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(Proceedings recorded by electronic video recording, transcript produced by computer.)

1 PROCEEDINGS 2 3 (Open court, defendant present:) 4 THE CLERK: We're on the record in criminal proceeding 5 23-CV-99, United States of America v. Howard Hinkle, Jr. for 6 oral argument of defendant's release motion. Present in the courtroom are assistant U.S. Attorney 7 Caitlin Higgins. 8 9 Defendant Mr. Hinkle with attorneys Frank Bogulski and 10 Daniel Henry. 11 United States Probation Officer Khalid Emerson. 12 The Honorable Jeremiah J. McCarthy, presiding. 13 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, again everyone. 14 (All say good morning.) 15 THE COURT: Defendant's renewed motion for release to 16 which the government has responded and opposing the motion. 17 Pretrial also opposes the motion. So I'll hear from counsel. 18 19 MR. BOGULSKI: Thank you, Judge. I appreciate the 20 opportunity. 21 I'll take the pretrial memo first, Judge. They do 22 oppose it but historically when this case began, it began 23 before Judge Roemer. Judge Roemer had ordered my client's 24 release. That detention order was appealed to Judge Sinatra 25 and it was denied. But there was an original order.

Subsequent to that, charges were filed, they were more serious charges so that may factor into the equation, candidly. However, when my client was first brought into custody and was arraigned before Judge Roemer, he had ordered his release. And that was appealed. Also, and so there was — there is a recommendation at some point that my client would be released.

In addition, when I look at the probation officer's memorandum from Mr. Mamizuka, he says, quote, and this is in the last paragraph:

"At this time I reviewed the defendant's motion for release dated August 1st, 2024, said motion does suggest a substantial change in circumstances that would warrant immediate release from custody, in that there are delays in this case that are not attributed to the defendant."

And you know, obviously, Judge, that is a big issue in this case as far as delays and it's something that the Second Circuit has addressed many times relative to our District.

This case is unique because there are delays that absolutely have nothing to do, really, with Mr. Hinkle.

The government, this court had found, did not timely disclose evidence and so years ago I had a case, Hector Rodriguez Javiar Cordera (phonetic) before Judge Scott and my client had been detained and I had found some evidence on my own and I argued successfully before Judge Scott that release

was warranted because now there's going to be motion practice and further delays.

And I draw that case to this Court's attention because once this whole issue with discovery is resolved and protective orders, there's going to be extensive motion practice and there's going to be delays and that has nothing really to do with Mr. Hinkle. It's not his fault as he's sitting in jail.

So those are significant factors when we look at case law as far as delays. The other thing I wanted to point out and this is a case I had before you years ago and I don't remember if I put it succinctly or not in my motion.

THE COURT: Mr. Bogulski, when you're talking about cases you've had in the past, it would be helpful if they're in your motion papers.

MR. BOGULSKI: That's -- honestly, Judge, you are correct. And I told Mr. Henry this, that I, I didn't even think about it. To the extent that I, that I should have or -- should have put it in my papers but I'll, you know, if need be, if the Court would grant me --

THE COURT: Well, I want to turn -- I'm aware of the delay situation. I think everybody's aware of the delay situation.

The other factor that you mention in your motion is that he now apparently or his common law wife is willing to post

the family residence.

MR. BOGULSKI: Yes, Judge, that's what I was about to get to. There was a Malik Matthews (phonetic) that you released, that was the Matthews case. And you found in that case my client, his family, was willing to post their home up for bail purposes and that rebutted the presumption of flight -- and perhaps dangerousness, I don't remember. But it was something that my client did. He post -- the family, I believe it was his mother that posted a home.

In this case, yes, my client's common law wife is here, his son is here, his mother-in-law, sister-in-law but his wife is willing to post the family home. I've been in contact with Robert Fogg -- that's the attorney -- and he, he has represented that to me, Judge.

So that is a significant change in circumstances because my client's not going to flee the jurisdiction. He would be under strict conditions. He would be at home. We would consent to any electronic monitoring because he just wants to be home with his family. So, yes, that is something that his family would do.

He also has employment opportunities and that's, obviously, going to depend upon what Court -- what kind of conditions but he can start immediately at D & D Contracting working on cement or working concrete jobs. My client's done construction work his entire life.

So our thought is that with the, you know, with property being posted -- and that's significant. I mean, his family's sitting right here behind him, standing behind him, supporting him in this endeavor and if he violates or he takes off, then he's going to -- his family home is gone.

So that, to me, is very significant because there are times I have clients their family won't put the money up. They're like you know what? We've been through this with this defendant and we don't trust that and they're not going to put up a dollar. But to put up the family home is huge. I mean, that is about as strong of an argument — besides the delays — I believe that we have in this case because they're putting their money — not their money, their home up.

And my understanding is there's no liens on that property and that his wife would put that or common law wife would put that property up and that's through Mr. Fogg that I've had those conversations, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Ms. Higgins.

MS. HIGGINS: Judge, yes.

First as to the pretrial delay, Mr. Bogulski in the -- I know he withdrew the motion from I think it was July 26th or July 24th -- had cited a Second Circuit case *Orena*, O-R-E-N-A, for the proposition that the Second Circuit has considered pretrial delay in the context of detention

hearings. In fact, *Orena* states quite the opposite. And if you'll indulge me, I can quote from the beginning of it.

We do not agree that the postponement of trial dates constitutes a new circumstance justifying release under the Bail Reform Act. Even if defense counsel had sought an early trial date -- which they explicitly did not -- there is no statutory bases for the conclusion that the length of a pretrial detention warrants the granting of bail where there has been a finding of danger to the community. To the contrary, Congress rejected any specific time limit under the Bail Reform Act for detention pending trial, relying, instead, upon the Speedy Trial Act.

And, Judge, that's *Orena*, 986 F.2d 628 (2d Circuit 1993).

That is -- we're conflating two different constructs here, Judge: Detention, which asks, as your Honor knows, whether defendant constitutes a danger to the community or a risk of flight and speedy trial, which is an entirely different analysis at this point. So if your Honor is including any of the delay in its decision as to whether to continue to detain the defendant, or to release him, I believe that that -- this is significant, in that the Second Circuit has said it's not appropriate.

As to the common law wife now putting the home up, I, I, you know, I didn't handle the initial detention hearings but

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I wondered why at this point on August 1st, 2024, she was willing to do so and not before. And I would also say that, to my understanding, the defendant resided with this common law wife during the commission of the charged crimes which raises red flags for the government.

I understand and I've appeared before your Honor where your Honor has released defendants on home arrest or different situations but I think this would also be a situation that would require a responsible person who will say, yes, I, I am going to insure that this defendant complies with the conditions of release. And I understand they're putting up their home but I would say that that does not constitute a new circumstance or a changed circumstance for purposes of the detention analysis.

As Mr. Bogulski has said, this, this detention order from Judge Roemer was appealed twice and it was reversed and then the Second Circuit affirmed it. This defendant still remains -- regardless of the pretrial delay, regardless of whether he can be released to a home where he had previously engaged in criminal conduct -- this defendant remains a danger to the community.

THE COURT: Okay. Any response to that?

MR. BOGULSKI: Yes, Judge.

As far as the house goes relative to the original detention order, my client's wife was charged at that time.

So, it really wasn't on the table. She was charged along with him. I believe it was 924(c) or marijuana, something or other and I believe those, she's -- I mean, she's not charged in this case so that isn't really relevant for the consideration here because my client's family's willing to put up their family home.

His son is here who manages a couple NAPA Auto Parts stores and he could be a signatory, as well, as far as if that's something that would alleviate maybe the government's concerns. He does have a good job, as I said, he managed — in speaking to my client, my understanding that his son, Gage, manages a NAPA store and is now going to be adding another store so he would be a responsible surety if the Court were to craft conditions beyond just the home, we have his wife, his son that are willing to support him.

And keep in mind, probation acknowledges, as well, that there is a substantial change in circumstances. And I think that my client's been in jail for 10, 11, almost 11 months, I believe. So, we don't know how long that's going to go but certainly putting up the house is going to rebut any presumption of dangerousness and flight.

And we'd ask that you set reasonable, least restrictive conditions in this case, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Emerson, anything you wish to add?

PROBATION OFFICER EMERSON: Yes, your Honor.

So, as it relates to the memo sent by Officer Mamizuka, I believe it's just simply citing what was already stated in the motion as it relates to the delays. However, it continues. If you keep reading, he states that these are not circumstances that which our office would consider when making our recommendation.

And, also, too, I just want to speak to, to when someone puts a home up -- he referred to the case of Mr. Matthews who I coincidentally supervised and the home was put up and that was a defendant that continued to violate conditions and his bail was ultimately revoked.

So I don't think that just someone putting a home up would guarantee that the defendant will follow the conditions of release, and I think that's what we're addressing in our memo. It doesn't change the circumstances that the defendant is more likely to abide by the conditions of release just because the home is put up. Because if the defendant's bail is revoked, it's not guaranteed that the house is going to be lost. We've had defendants who have violated conditions, ultimately bail has been revoked and the signatory keeps the residence. So I don't think that deters anyone from violating conditions as it relates to conditions of release.

THE COURT: What are you suggesting, that's meaningless someone --

PROBATION OFFICER EMERSON: No, I'm not suggesting it's meaningless. I'm just saying that I don't think it serves as a change of circumstance for someone to now abide by conditions of release when it was deemed that they weren't appropriate for release in the past. Definitely not meaningless, your Honor.

MR. BOGULSKI: Judge --

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. BOGULSKI: My client's a trustee in the jail.

THE COURT: I know. I've considered that before.

MR. BOGULSKI: He's a vastly different position in his life. I mean, I brought it up. Mr. Matthews is far younger. There's a lot of data to suggest that there's a lower rate of recidivism -- I'm not saying that -- you know, recidivism or criminal activity, the older you get. My client's just about 50 years old. I don't have it in front of me. I don't think he has any bench warrants or failures to appear on his record. He's always been cooperative with Mr. Henry and I. And the fact that the jail thinks enough of him and that his family is here to support him and because he can get a job tomorrow if he's released, I think the home is very important and his family support and his son's willingness to act as a signatory is something this Court should consider, as well.

MS. HIGGINS: Judge, if I might just respond, if you would allow me. Two points. Recidivism is an

inappropriate -- is not an appropriate consideration for
detention purposes. I think that's --

THE COURT: No, it relates to whether he's going to do bad things in the future, doesn't it?

MS. HIGGINS: Well, that would be with respect to if Mr. Bogulski had produced a case saying that recidivism is an appropriate consideration for the detention purposes. It's considered with respect to sentencing but not with respect to recidivism because he still remains a danger to the community.

With respect to the house, your Honor -- and maybe we can inquire further about his wife's pending charges: If they are pending, if they're not. The government would have concerns releasing the defendant to a situation where the wife has also engaged in criminal conduct, Judge. We just don't know enough. And I, quite frankly, cannot address anything about the cases that Mr. Bogulski is citing today for the reason that your Honor raised earlier, in that I didn't have any forewarning of it.

THE COURT: Yeah, I'm not considering those at this point.

MS. HIGGINS: Understood, Judge, thank you.

THE COURT: What is the situation with the wife's criminal status?

MR. BOGULSKI: Judge, my understanding she's not charged

at all. Like, she was initially charged but there are no pending charges.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, all right. And I will stay my order but I am going to direct that Mr. Hinkle be released on the following conditions:

First of all, that the family home be posted.

Secondly, that his son -- and this is new because it's coming from me so it's up to his son. I would ask that his son sign a \$50,000 signature bond, meaning that he doesn't have to post anything right now but -- and I will explain to him in a moment what the consequences would be if his father violates conditions of release -- coupled with other conditions that I'm going to ask Mr. Emerson to suggest and then, as I said, I will stay the release order, we'll discuss that down the road.

Mr. Emerson.

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PROBATION OFFICER EMERSON: Yes, your Honor.

Report to pretrial services within 24 hours of release.

Not obtain a passport or any international travel document. Travel is restricted to the Western District of New York.

Remain at a verifiable address as approved by Pretrial Services.

Avoid all contact with codefendants and defendants in related cases.

Avoid all contact directly or indirectly with persons who may become a victim or potential witness in the case or investigation.

Refrain from possessing a firearm.

Refrain from any use of alcohol.

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Refrain from the use or unlawful possession of a narcotic drug. Defendant may not possess marijuana, regardless if it's legal under state law.

Submit to drug testing and treatment, if deemed necessary.

Refrain from obstructing or attempting to obstruct or tamper with the drug testing or electronic monitoring.

We will be recommending home incarceration via radio frequency and report law enforcement contact within 72 hours.

If you give me one second, I just want to look at the bail report. So in the original bail report it did state that he was under the care of a counselor and a psychologist in Wellsville. So we would ask that there -- a mental health evaluation be completed, as well.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. HIGGINS: Judge, if I can just put one more thing on the record. One of the agents is here and just let me know that the defendant actually admitted to law enforcement that he grew about 12 pounds of marijuana at his house. He admitted to smoking half of that and selling half of that so

we're also releasing him to a home where he directly engaged in criminal conduct. It may not change your Honor's decision but I needed to put it on the record.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

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Any objection to those conditions? And initially the initial condition of release would be home incarceration. I understand he wants to work. We'll take that one step at a time see how things go. I may allow him to work down the road.

MR. BOGULSKI: Okay. That's exactly what I was going to say, Judge, is if maybe the Court would entertain a condition with a curfew that would allow him to work, that's all.

THE COURT: All right. Any other objections to those conditions?

MR. BOGULSKI: No, Judge.

PROBATION OFFICER EMERSON: And I would just ask if the Court would allow us to complete a home inspection before --

THE COURT: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely, yeah.

PROBATION OFFICER EMERSON: Okay.

THE COURT: Can I have the common law wife and his son come up, please. Right up to the podium, please.

Good morning.

MS. ANDERSON: Good morning.

THE COURT: What is your name, ma'am?

MS. ANDERSON: Dillon Anderson.

1 THE COURT: And you are the defendant's common law wife, 2 is that correct? 3 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. 4 THE COURT: And prior to his incarceration, was he 5 residing with you at your home? 6 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. THE COURT: Was anyone else residing there? 7 MS. ANDERSON: No. 8 9 THE COURT: Do you own the home? 10 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. 11 THE COURT: Anybody else co-owner? 12 MS. ANDERSON: No. 13 **THE COURT:** And are there any liens on that property? MS. ANDERSON: 14 No. 15 THE COURT: And I know it's been mentioned that at one 16 point you were subject to criminal charges. 17 Are there any charges currently pending against you? 18 MS. ANDERSON: No. 19 THE COURT: All right. You understand, ma'am, that --20 well, do you have a ballpark idea of the value of the home? 21 MS. ANDERSON: Probably 120. 22 Okay. You understand that if you post that THE COURT: 23 as security for the defendant's release and if he violates the conditions of release, you may lose that home; do you 24 understand that? 2.5

MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

THE COURT: All right. And so what's your name, please?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Gage Hinkle.

THE COURT: And you are the defendant's son?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Correct.

9 **THE COURT:** And it's my understanding you are employed?

That's what Mr. Bogulski said.

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Yes.

12 **THE COURT:** And where do you work?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: NAPA Auto Parts.

THE COURT: Approximately how much do you earn per

15 month?

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MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: 3,000.

THE COURT: Okay. Now, one of the additional conditions that I've mentioned is that I would ask you, in addition to the family home being posted, I would ask you to sign a signature bond in the amount of \$50,000.

What that means for you is that you don't need to put anything up right now. But that if your father violates the conditions of his release, you may be liable for that amount; do you understand that, sir?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Yes.

THE COURT: That's a significant consideration. Are you willing to undertake that risk?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Yes.

THE COURT: Can you both assure me that you will, if you become aware that Mr. Hinkle has violated any of the conditions of his release, that you will notify pretrial services and notify the Court?

MR. GAGE ANDERSON-HINKLE: Yes.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. You can have a seat. We'll have some paperwork for you.

As I said, I will stay the release order for a couple reasons.

First of all, Mr. Bogulski, it's going to be up to you to coordinate getting the government information about this property that they can verify what the value is and what the -- whether there are any liens against it. I'm setting the bail amount on that house. It's been represented to me that it's a hundred, about 120 in value. So I'll set the equity amount at 90,000, plus the son's execution of the signature bond. It will be conditioned on there being an inspection of the premises so that it's compatible for release. And it's going to have to be -- is there a landline because he's going to have to be monitored?

MS. ANDERSON: Going to have to get one.

THE COURT: You're going to have to get one, if you

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don't have one.
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         MS. ANDERSON:
                         (Indiscernible.)
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          THE COURT: Can you get one. You'll have to get one,
    all right.
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          So, for now, I'm going to stay -- it seems to me this is
     going to take a while to get the documentation about the
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    house nailed down. So today is September 9th, I'll stay his
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     release until 5:00 p.m. on September 20th. If the conditions
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     relative to the house have been satisfied and there is no
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     other stay, I will -- his release will be effective at that
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     time.
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          I'm aware, Ms. Higgins of what you said about what he's
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     done in the past. Nonetheless, I think that the two forms of
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     security that I've requested are sufficient to reasonably
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     assure me that, if released, he will not pose a risk of
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     flight or danger to the community. He knows what it's like
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     to be in custody. I'm sure he doesn't want to go back there.
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         Mr. Hinkle.
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          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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          THE COURT: You've heard the conditions of your release?
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          THE DEFENDANT:
                          I did.
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          THE COURT: And you understand, sir, that one of those
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     conditions -- or two of those conditions are that your common
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conditions -- or two of those conditions are that your common law wife is going to post your home?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

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THE COURT: Her home in which you've resided as security for your release and your son is going to execute a \$50,000 signature bond. If you violate any of the conditions if you're released, not only will your release be revoked but you will be putting both of them at significant jeopardy; do you understand that, sir?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

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THE COURT: Can you assure me that that will not occur?

THE DEFENDANT: I can assure you that it won't occur.

THE COURT: All right. Now one issue is whether you use it, whether you sell it or whatever, it's all banned as far as federal law is concerned. I know that under state law use of marijuana is not criminalized. It still is under federal law.

So, one of the conditions of your release is that you not violate federal, state or local law. So you can't use marijuana.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Obviously you can't sell it.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Any of that would be a violation of your conditions of release.

MS. HIGGINS: Judge, just a question. Would the presence of the drug on the premises of the home be a violation of conditions? I don't know if that's going to be

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     imposed, a condition that he not be around drugs.
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          THE COURT: Yeah, I'm going to insist that there be no
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     marijuana or any other illicit substances in the premises.
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         MS. HIGGINS: So in the premises but around the house.
     I don't know where he's growing -- or he grew the marijuana
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    but if it's still there.
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          THE COURT: Okay. Anywhere in the property that is
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     adjacent to the house, he can't sell, he can't use.
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          You understand that, sir?
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          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
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         MS. HIGGINS: I'm sorry. I'm not trying to belabor it,
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    but if it's there, Judge, it violates the condition.
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    presence of drugs in the --
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          THE COURT: Well, it's not.
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          THE DEFENDANT:
                          It's not there.
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          THE COURT: They do the inspection. If --
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         MS. HIGGINS: Okay.
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          THE COURT: -- they find marijuana, it's got to be
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     removed.
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                       That's fine, Judge, thank you.
         MS. HIGGINS:
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          THE COURT: Everybody good with that?
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          THE DEFENDANT:
                          Yes.
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         MR. BOGULSKI:
                         Yes.
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          THE COURT: Or if they find any other illicit substance.
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MS. HIGGINS: Of course.

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1 THE COURT: Firearms, anything of that sort, it's all 2 got to go. 3 MS. HIGGINS: And, Judge, we're going to be appealing 4 just to put on the record, as well, so. 5 THE COURT: I am not surprised. 6 MS. HIGGINS: Thank you. THE COURT: But, again, you have a stay until --7 8 MS. HIGGINS: Yep, thank you. 9 THE COURT: -- the 20th. 10 MS. HIGGINS: Got it. 11 THE COURT: And if it turns out that by the 20th, the 12 other conditions, for instance, the information relative to 13 the title of the home or liens or whatever hasn't been worked 14 out, then the stay of release will continue beyond --15 MS. HIGGINS: Okay. 16 THE COURT: -- that date. 17 MS. HIGGINS: Understood. Thank you, Judge. 18 THE COURT: All right. Anything further today? 19 MR. BOGULSKI: No, Judge. 20 THE COURT: Thank you all. 21 (WHEREUPON, proceedings adjourned.) 22 23 24 25

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                U.S. v. Hinkle, Jr. - 23-CR-99
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                       CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER
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               In accordance with 28, U.S.C., 753(b), I
 5
     certify that this is a true and correct record of proceedings
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     from the official audio recording of the
     proceedings held in the United States District Court
 8
     for the Western District of New York before
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     Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy on September 9, 2024.
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     S/ Diane S. Martens
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     Diane S. Martens
     Transcriber
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